



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF THE
SCIENCE ADVISOR

January 11, 2018

(b) (6)

Dear (b) (6)

I am writing in response to your letter of April 13, 2016, addressed to Francesca Grifo, EPA's Scientific Integrity Official, with the subject (b) (6). (b) (6) Dr. Grifo is on extended leave and I am serving as her backup during her absence.

Your letter alleges a loss of scientific integrity, specifically, that EPA is disseminating information based on USGS publications that you allege contain unreliable findings. You provide information about your letter to the editor of *Environmental Science & Technology* requesting a retraction of one of the publications, and also about your previous submission of a Request for Correction to EPA's Quality Program.

EPA's Scientific Integrity Program does not arbitrate scientific disputes when there are differing scientific opinions, nor does it evaluate the quality and reproducibility of the scientific literature. Accordingly, this is not a violation of EPA's Scientific Integrity Policy.

As your letter was also addressed to EPA's Quality Program as a Request for Reconsideration, it is apparent that you are using the established process. EPA's Quality Program will respond to your concerns on behalf of the Agency.

Sincerely yours,

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